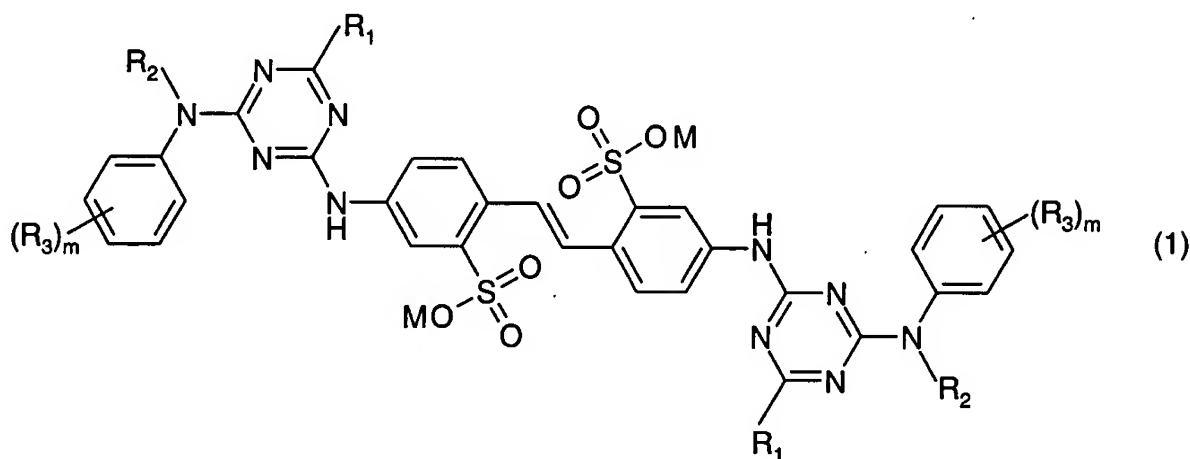


IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice claims 7-9 and 37-39.

Kindly replace claims 1, 3-6, 10-13, 21-22 and 31 by the following claims.

1. (amended) A compound having the formula:



wherein each

R_1 represents, independently, a 2-methoxyethylamino group or an amino acid group from which a hydrogen atom on the amino group has been removed; each

R_2 represents, independently, a linear C_1 - C_4 -alkylene group which is unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -hydroxy- or alkoxy-alkoxy, -OCOM, -OCOC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, -CO $_2$ M, CO $_2$ C $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl SO $_3$ M or phenoxy which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, -CO $_2$ M or -CO $_2$ C $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, NH $_2$ or mono- or disubstituted amino; or phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 3 SO $_3$ M, SO $_2$ NHC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, -SO $_2$ NH $_2$, -CO $_2$ M, -CO $_2$ C $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, -CONH $_2$, -CONHC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, -NHCOC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl or mono- or disubstituted amino groups; each

R_3 represents, independently, hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, halogen, cyano, SO $_3$ M, -SO $_2$ NH $_2$, SO $_2$ NHC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, -CO $_2$ M, -CO $_2$ C $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, -CONH $_2$, -CONHC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, or -NHCOC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl;

M is hydrogen, an alkali metal atom, ammonium or a cation formed from an amine and

m is an integer of 1 to 3.

3. (amended) A compound according to claim 2 in which each R_1 is an amino acid group and each has the formula $-NH-CH(CO_2H)-R_4$ in which R_4 is hydrogen or a group having the formula $-CHR_5R_6$ in which R_5 and R_6 , independently, are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from hydroxy, thio, methylthio, amino, carboxy, sulfo, phenyl, 4-hydroxyphenyl, 3,5-diiodo-4-hydroxyphenyl, β -indolyl, β -imidazolyl and $NH=C(NH_2)NH-$.

β^2 4. (amended) A compound according to claim 3 in which the amino acid from which the amino acid group R_1 is derived is glycine, alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxy-phenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan (β -indolylalanine), histidine (β -imidazolylalanine), α -aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine (α -aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine (α -aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine (α -amino- β -methylvaleric acid), norleucine (α -amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine (α,δ -diaminovaleric acid), lysine (α,ϵ -diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid (α -aminoglutaric acid), threonine, hydroxyglutamic acid or taurine, or the R_1 groups are derived from mixtures or optical isomers of said amino acids.

5. (amended) A compound according to claim 4 in which the amino acid from which the amino acid group R_1 is derived is sarcosine, taurine, glutamic acid or aspartic acid.

β^3 6. (twice amended) A compound according to claim 1 in which the amino acid from which each amino acid group R_1 is derived is aspartic acid or iminodiacetic acid.

β^4 10. (twice amended) A compound according to claim 1 in which the group R_2 represents a linear C_1 - C_4 -alkylene group which is unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -hydroxy or alkoxyalkoxy, $-OCOC_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, $-CO_2M$, $-CO_2C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, SO_3M , phenoxy which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, $-CO_2M$ or $-CO_2C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, NH_2 or mono- or disubstituted amino and M is as defined in claim 1.

11. (twice amended) A compound according to claim 10 in which the group R_2 represents a methylene, ethylene or propylene group which is substituted by hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -hydroxy- or alkoxy-alkoxy, $-OCOC_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, $-CO_2M$, $-CO_2C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, SO_3M or di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino.

12. (twice amended) A compound according to claim 10 in which R_2 is hydroxyethyl, hydroxypropyl, ethoxyethyl, hydroxyethoxyethyl, methoxyethoxyethyl, the group $-CH_2CO_2H$ or $-CH_2CH_2CO_2H$ or

B4 methyl or ethyl esters thereof, the group $-\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{CH}_3$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, dimethylaminoethyl or ethyl sulphonic acid or the sodium salt thereof.

B5 13. (amended) A compound according to claim 12 in which R_2 is hydroxyethyl or the group $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{O}^-\text{Na}^+$.

21. (twice amended) A compound of formula 1 according to claim 1 in which:

R_1 is an amino acid group derived from aspartic acid or iminodiacetic acid,

R_2 is hydroxyethyl,

R_3 is hydrogen and

M is sodium.

22. (twice amended) A compound of the formula 1 in which:

R_1 is a 2-methoxyethylamino group,

R_2 is the group $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{O}^-\text{Na}^+$,

R_3 is hydrogen and

M is sodium.

B7 31. (amended) A composition for whitening synthetic or natural organic materials, which contains water, a fluorescent whitening agent according to claim 1 and, optionally, auxiliaries.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 and 31-39 were pending in this application.

Claims 1-25 and 31-39 were subject to restriction as outlined in the Office Action.

Claims 31-39 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 6, 14-17, 19, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cowman et al., WO 96/00221.